



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee September 24, 2019 School Committee Meeting**

#### **Schools of Distinction for State MCAS Testing**

The official MCAS results were released publicly today and we have some very exciting news.

The Kennedy Elementary School, for the second year in a row, has been recognized as a School Of Distinction. This year's recognition comes from Exceeding their Achievement Targets.

Additionally, the Davis Thayer Elementary School has been recognized as a School of Distinction as well. Their recognition comes from their students receiving High Growth Measures.

We are currently working across the district to more deeply analyze MCAS results. A School Committee presentation about our results is scheduled for later this fall.

#### **Student Opportunity Act**

The Joint Committee on Education issued proposed legislation entitled the Student Opportunity Act, which incorporates multiple proposals toward education funding reform. Major categories of change include:

- Increased funding for areas recommended by the Foundation Budget Review Commission's 2015 report, including increased funding for employee and retiree healthcare costs, special education, English language learners, and students from low-income households.
- Providing additional state financial support, to be implemented over a number of years, for public schools through charter tuition reimbursements, an expansion of the special education circuit breaker, additional funding for school guidance and psychological services, and lifting the cap on Massachusetts School Building Authority spending.
- Establishing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Trust Fund for districts and schools pursuing creative approaches to student learning and district improvement; a Data Advisory Committee to help districts with strategic planning and resource allocation; and a Rural Schools Commission to investigate low and declining enrollment in rural schools.
- Requiring schools and districts to develop and publish plans for closing opportunity gaps, and requiring the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to publish

district-level data on student preparedness for post-graduate success in college and the workforce.

We are in the process of understanding, with greater detail, the impact locally on Franklin and identify the following areas:

- As a minimum aid community, we do not anticipate an increase in Chapter 70 funding as a result of the implementation of the FBRC recommendations. The bill, however, does set minimum aid to be \$30, which is the same amount as FY 20 and higher than amounts received in recent fiscal years.
- We anticipate additional financial support through the Circuit Breaker Reimbursement, with the inclusion of out-of-district specialized transportation (beyond a threshold level), which had previously not been included. This is proposed to be phased in over several years.
- We anticipate a small amount of additional financial support of Charter School Tuition reimbursement, which had not been fully funded in years past.
- Opportunities for competitive grants and additional flexibility through the 21st Century Education Trust Fund.

The bill is currently headed to the Senate for debate during the Fall legislative session. I will keep the Committee informed as more information and analysis comes forth. It is still very early to determine the impact on Franklin and it will take multiple years for the bill's implementation.

### **Professional Development Day Preview -- September 27, 2019**

September 27, 2019 is a half-day for students as our faculty will be engaged in a building-based professional development day in the afternoon. Our principals and building administrators have been hard at work planning the day. You will see a direct connection between the School Improvement Plans and how our professional development time is used. This time is one of our most precious resources in terms of pursuing and fulfilling our improvement plan goals. The following are highlights of the planned activities:

- ECDC -- Big Day for Pre K Curriculum and Alignment with Proposed Report Card
- Elementary Schools -- School Improvement Plan Action Step Development; Understanding by Design as a framework for curriculum in the areas of passion projects and SEL; Trauma-Informed Schools professional development; "Study our Students" reflection and planning
- Middle Schools -- SEL development and Relationship Building; EdCamp style workshops related to School Improvement Plan
- High School -- Cultural Proficiency; Department Goal Development

### **Regroup Communication Apology**

I would like to reiterate an apology that went out to our high school families over an early Sunday morning phone call that was issued via our Regroup Communication System. Unfortunately, the call was scheduled to go out at 6:00 AM instead of the intended 6:00 PM.

What the general community may not be aware of, is that we issued a personal apology to families later that day, recognizing the disruption this caused.

While a simple mistake might not always warrant such a response, the administrative team felt that it was a good opportunity to review communication guidelines, particularly on the use of the Regroup Communication system and we devoted a portion of our recent leadership team meeting to this discussion.